March Comes in Like a Lion

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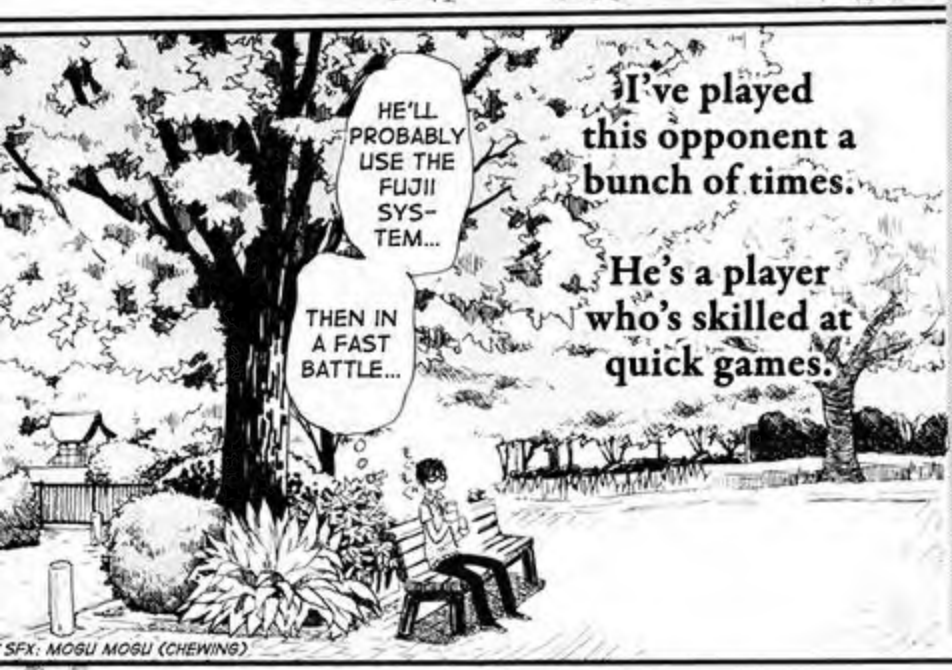
Chapter. 51

Ladybug Bush ①

THE EGG SANDWICH THEY HAVE AT FUJIMORI BREAD IN 2 CHOUME IS UNBELIEVABLY GOOD!
IT'S DELICIOUS.
THEY OPEN IN THE EARLY MORN-ING,
SO MAYBE GO ON A DAY YOU HAVE A MATCH AND EAT IT ON YOUR WAY.
Kiss
Kiss
Ahh... Onei-san...
I Love you...
I Love you...

SFX: MOGU MOGU (CHEWING)

In today's open tournament, the available time is short.
IT STARTS AT 10 O'CLOCK,
SO IF I WANT TO GET THERE 15 MINUTES EARLY,
THEN I'VE STILL GOT PLENTY OF TIME. I'LL JUST EAT THIS HERE.


I've played this opponent a bunch of times.
He's a player who's skilled at quick games.
HE'LL PROBABLY USE THE FUJII SYS-TEM...
THEN IN A FAST BATTLE...
SFX: MOGU MOGU (CHEWING)

FUJIMORI BREAD?!
REI-CHAN, THAT PLACE,
THEY HAVE THE BEST DOUGHNUTS THERE!!
IF YOU GO IN THE EVENING YOU CAN GET SOME FRESHLY FRIED ONES!
TRY THEM!
YOU'VE GOTTA TRY THEM!!
Then I would've had enough snacks for the whole match...
MAYBE I SHOULD'VE BOUGHT SOME DOUGHNUTS, TOO... THE ONES THAT HINA-CHAN RECOMMENDED.

There was one planted in my elementary school yard...
Oh yeah. I remember.
.....
THIS BUSH...

SFX: KASA...

It's the ladybug bush.
For some reason, of all the bushes planted there,
this bush in particular
was the only one where ladybugs had laid eggs...
I HAVEN'T SEEN IT IN SO LONG.
IT SURE MAKES ME FEEL NOSTAL-GIC.
No, that's not it.
This...
NOSTALGIC?
.....

This feeling is...

SFX: SHURURURU... SHURURURU

SFX: GAHH
!!
ガッ
ドスッ
SFX: DOSSUH

ガラッ
SFX: GARAH

Hehe.
Haha ha.
Hee.
YOU'RE THE ONE THAT THREW IT, RIGHT?
IT'S THE FOUR-EYED ROBOT!
SCARY!
UH-OH! HE'S LOOKING THIS WAY!
Kyahaha
Hahaha

I lost my parents and my little sister in an accident,

and then I became a child of a house of shogi in Tokyo.

I was all by myself in my elementary school in rural Nagano,

but when I came here to Tokyo,

in this huge, enormous school, I became truly alone.

But because I never once had a single friend,

I saw that as normal.

CHALKBOARD: KIRIYAMA FOUR-EYES SHOGI ROBOT TRANSMIT!

SFX: KUSU KUSU (GIGGLE)
SFX: HISO HISO (WHISPERING)

"It's normal."

That's what

I tried to make myself believe.

During recess

I would pretend to be absorbed in books.

I got used to doing that,

so every day I would act unconcerned.

I did everything I could to hide my presence

so that the direct attacks from my classmates wouldn't get any worse.

会館

2-3 HI PROMOTION.

SAME, GYOKU.

1-3 KAKU PROMOTION.

3-4 GYOKU.

I would stand out if I stayed inside during lunch break,

so I hid in a shrub

in the corner of the schoolyard.

Wah!

Wah!

Kyahaha...

Hahahaha

Throw the ball here!

My Kouda mother was a kind person,
GOOD MORN-ING.
OH, GOOD MORN-ING.
so she would always smile with a con-cerned look.
I wanted to make her happy,
so I worked hard at a lot of things, but...
CAN'T YOU JUST MAKE REI DO IT?
WASH THE RICE?
HE'S BETTER AT IT THAN ME, ISN'T HE?
SFX: GAGAGA BIIIN GAGA
The more I would help out,
...CAN'T YOU JUST HAVE REI DO IT...?
CLEAN THE BATH?
YOU'RE ALWAYS SAYING WHAT A "GOOD BOY" HE IS, RIGHT?
ガガガ
ビィーン
ガガガ
ピキョーン
ピキョーン
SFX: PIKYUUN PIKYUUN
the more concerned she would look.

So, in order to get through these nights without having to think,
I would bear myself in the board.
At night,
I would
wonder if
"Can I keep this up forever?"
and "Is it all
for this?"

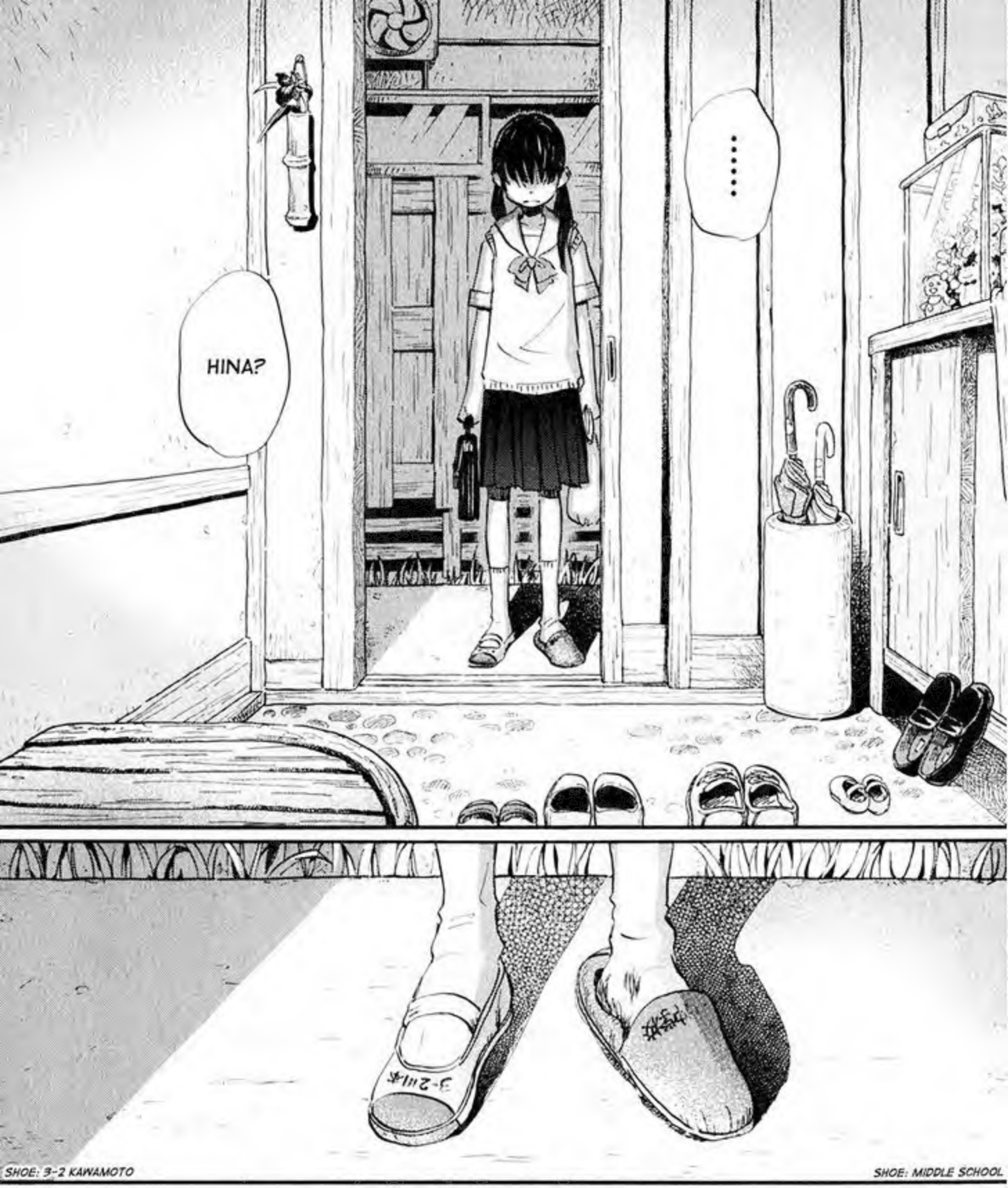
I would solve
I would read them,
fervently, repeatedly

and play
I would spend every day
at the shogi hall.
Young shogi
and play
and play
and I kept
on playing
I would play
and playing
playing games
from morning
till evening.
I would read
shogi day
and night.
and playing

And so,
here I am.

Hmm I really want to eat them while they're still hot!
THEY'RE STILL A BIT WARM! THEY'RE FRESHLY FRIED, ARE THEY?
But if we do, we'll have no room for dinner...
HINA STILL HASN'T COME HOME YET.
It's getting late...
AH!
DOUGH-NUTS!!
I WANT 'EM!!
パーンのフジモリ
WELCOME!
OH MY, DOUGHNUTS!!
YOU WENT AND BOUGHT THEM FOR US?
BAG: PAN NO FUJIMORI
SFX: GIRA GIRA
SFX: SHAKIIIN
SFX: SHAKIIIN
SFX: SHIIIN... (SILENCE)
SFX: KATAN

I WONDER WHAT'S WRONG.
HINA?
HINA, ARE YOU THERE?
...?
AH!
THERE'S HINA-CHAN COMING IN RIGHT NOW.
カラン
Can we?! Can we!! eat them?!
What are these?! Is it okay to eat them?!
シャキーン
ガサッ
Their arms are so long!
Stretch!!
ビョン!!
WELCOME BACK!
SFX: GASASAH
SFX: SAH
SFX: SASAH
SFX: BYUN!!


HINA?
.....
SHOE: 3-2 KAWAMOTO
SHOE: MIDDLE SCHOOL

.....
Rei-
cha...
O-,
Onei-
cha...
...
HINA-CHAN?!
Chapter 51 END

3月のライオン

March comes in like a lion

Chica Umino